



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DRAFT PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS FEBRUARY 2004

This report provides key findings and an assessment of need for parks, natural areas, recreation amenities and facilities. Section I is an Executive Summary that provides information about the methodology used, including public involvement tools and resources used to provide information about relevant parks and open space trends. Section II provides a detailed assessment of need for the seven proposed park classifications, including neighborhood parks, community parks, natural area parks, urban plazas, metropolitan parks, linear parks, and special use facilities. Analysis is provided for the City, as a whole, and for each planning sub-area. Section III provides a detailed analysis of the need for outdoor recreation amenities, recreation facilities, and natural area amenities. Additional information to support the analysis is provided in the following appendixes to this document:

- Appendix A contains the classifications and definitions of parks and open spaces;
- Appendix B contains trail classifications and definitions;
- Appendix C contains an inventory of facilities listed by park classification;
- Appendix D is an inventory of facilities by planning sub-area;
- Appendix E contains an evaluation of park amenity conditions;
- Appendix F includes an evaluation of the City-owned natural areas' conditions; and
- Appendix G presents the condition of park facilities.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Introduction

To plan for future needs, it is important to understand the current system of parks, open space, and recreation amenities and facilities available to residents of the City of Eugene. The purpose of this report is to:

- Assess community need and preferences for parks, open space, and recreation amenities and facilities, along with trends affecting facility use;
- Document the type, number, and condition of parks and recreation amenities and facilities available to City residents today;
- Analyze the ratio of parks and facilities to population (current level of service) and assess current and future needs; and
- Provide a basis for the development of strategies and actions for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan.

The Parks and Open Space Analysis proposes minimum parkland standards that would be adopted to serve as a guide for the development of a future park system. A goal of these standards is to balance active recreation use and natural area parks in accordance with community values. The report also assesses the need for individual recreation amenities and facilities within parks, however, adopting formal standards for these facilities is not proposed.



B. Methodology

A variety of methods were used to assess current and future need for parks, natural areas, recreation amenities, and facilities:

- **Public Involvement:** All results of the PROS Comprehensive Plan community involvement efforts were used in the development of this report, including:
 - **Community Survey:** The PROS Comprehensive Plan Community Survey includes data on current participation in 50 recreation activities as well as data on preferences for recreation participation. Recreation preferences indicate activities in which an individual is not currently participating, but would like to have the opportunity to do so. A comparison of current recreation participation and recreation preferences helps identify activities with significant differences between desired participation and current participation. This statistically valid data is based upon a survey sample of 437.
 - **Youth Questionnaire:** Like the Community Survey, the Youth Questionnaire includes data on current participation as well as preferences for recreation activities. A total of 647 questionnaires were completed.
 - **Eugene Celebration Questionnaire:** This report includes the results of 456 questionnaires completed during this annual event in 2002.
 - **Speakers Bureau Questionnaire:** This report includes the input received from 44 staff presentations to community groups and organizations. A total of 1085 community members attended the presentations and 751 completed questionnaires.
 - **Organized Sports Questionnaire:** Representatives from 15 organizations responded to questionnaires or were interviewed by phone.
 - **Focus Groups:** (LRCS Staff, Maintenance Staff, Recreation and Social Service Providers, Natural Resource and Open Space, Multi-cultural, LRCS Communities of Color): A total of 166 participated in PROS plan focus groups.
 - **Stakeholder Interviews:** Twelve (12) community leaders identified by the City were interviewed.
 - **Other:** Additional input has been derived from the Mayor's Committee discussions and from formal and informal staff interviews.
- **Review of Trends:** The following sources were consulted to identify local, state, and national trends in sports and recreation:
 - **Eugene Population, Demographic and Economic Trends (LCOG, 2003):** This population trend analysis was prepared as part of the PROS Comprehensive Plan update. Data used is for the Urban Growth Boundary rather than the PROS planning area due to data availability. The current population is 160,469 and the projected 2025 population is 210,900. Planning area build-out may differ from this projection since the planning area extends beyond the UGB. Subsequent updates to the PROS plan should include updated population forecasts to confirm or update this data.
 - **Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2003-2007 (SCORP):** The SCORP is a 5-year statewide plan for recreation that enables the state to maintain eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies. Oregon's SCORP includes valuable information about recreation trends and participation in Oregon, and it provides detail about different geographic regions of the state.



- **National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA):** NSGA is the national association for sporting goods retailers. NSGA conducts an annual nationwide study about recreation participation. Current and historical participation information is available on NSGA's website and as printed publications.
 - **MIG's Northwest Average:** MIG's maintains a database on current recreation participation. The Northwest Average is continually updated and reflects the average recreation participation in the past 15 communities surveyed by MIG.
- **Parks and Open Space Classifications and Definitions:** Based on the City's current inventory of parks and open space and commonly used classification systems, new classifications have been proposed. Definitions for each park class are provided in Appendix A. Classifications and definitions for trails, including accessible trails, are found in Appendix B.
 - **Parks and Open Space Inventory:** City staff conducted a complete inventory of parks, open space, amenities and facilities owned by the City of Eugene. The results are displayed in Appendix C by park classification and in Appendix D by planning sub-areas.
 - **Park Amenity Evaluation:** As part of the PROS Comprehensive Plan development, Parks and Open Space staff evaluated the condition of park amenities, excluding buildings, in all City-owned parks and open space areas in the winter of 2003. Evaluations of parks and recreation buildings are described in the Facility Condition Report Summary, below. MIG worked with City staff to develop the 3-point rating scale used in the evaluation. The results of the evaluation are summarized in Appendix E by individual site and by park type.
 - **Natural Area Evaluation:** As part of the PROS Comprehensive Plan development, Parks and Open Space staff developed a rating system and evaluated the condition of significant natural resources in City-owned parks in Winter 2003. Appendix F summarizes the results of the evaluation of each site by park type and resource value.
 - **Facility Condition Report Summary:** Parks and recreation buildings, such as community centers, pools, and park restrooms, are managed by the Facilities Division of the Central Services Department. For the 2001 *Facility Condition Report (FCR)*, the Facility Management Division assessed the condition of Eugene's General Fund building inventory. Each facility's state of deterioration, current replacement value, and emerging deficiencies were noted. Appendix G uses FCR data to describe the condition of park facilities.
 - **Standards Analysis:** The current and future need for parks and recreation amenities and facilities are generally expressed as a ratio of the number of facilities provided per 1,000 people. This ratio describes the level of service provided to the community. To establish minimum standards for Eugene's parks and natural areas and to identify needs for recreation amenities and facilities, the current level of service provided was compared to that of other Oregon agencies, comparable communities in other regions, and historic NRPA standards. Community demand was the primary consideration. In some cases, a formula was used to assess need. The standards for parks, natural areas, recreation amenities, and facilities are described in Sections II and III of this report.

C. Planning Area and Sub-areas

The parks, recreation, and open space planning area (Map 1) for the Eugene PROS Comprehensive Plan extends beyond City limits to include un-annexed areas located throughout River Road/Santa Clara and all areas within the urban growth boundary (UGB). The planning area extends beyond the UGB in places to include opportunity areas for future park and open space decisions. The City of Eugene manages approximately 2900 acres of land in 130 parks, open space, and special use facilities within the planning area. Residents also have access on a more limited basis to area parks and facilities owned or managed by other public agencies.



The planning area is divided into six sub-areas:

- Bethel-Danebo
- City Central
- River Road/Santa Clara
- South Eugene
- Willakenzie
- Willow Creek

Within the Urban Growth Boundary, the planning sub-area boundaries follow census block group lines so census data can be matched to each planning sub-area. Outside the Urban Growth Boundary, the planning boundaries follow natural or road features and as close as possible to census tract boundaries. As a result, some neighborhoods are divided between two or more planning sub-areas. Table 1 lists the planning sub-areas and identifies the official City neighborhood associations included in each sub-area.

D. Key Findings

Key findings from the Parks and Open Space Analysis include the following:

- The City of Eugene currently maintains about 2,900 acres of parkland at 130 sites, providing a level of service of about 18 acres per 1,000 residents (Table 2).
- To meet the needs of residents in 2025, about 1,300 additional parkland acres will be needed (Table 2). The parkland standards proposed in this document will help the City create a park system that balances active recreation with the preservation of natural areas. A standard of 20.0 acres per 1000 residents for total parkland is proposed to provide adequate recreation resources for the future.
- Areas that do not have any access to any park type within a half-mile service area should be a high priority for future park acquisition (Map 5).
- Parks and natural areas are not equitably distributed throughout the City. Each of the planning areas has assets and deficiencies that will need to be addressed in the PROS plan.
- In addition to opportunities provided by the City of Eugene, residents have access to recreation facilities owned, managed or maintained by others, including local, state and federal agencies, and schools. In addition, non-profit organizations and the private sector provide other recreation opportunities. Eugene School District 4J and Bethel School District 52 are important providers of active recreation opportunities. The extent to which the City can work with these agencies to coordinate acquisition, development, use, and maintenance of these facilities will be an important component of Comprehensive Plan recommendations.
- New outdoor recreation amenities, natural area amenities, and recreation facilities are needed, and more will be needed to meet community needs in 2025. Outdoor basketball courts, children's play areas, soccer fields, softball/baseball fields, and pedestrian and multiuse trails are needed. In addition, more gymnasiums, swimming pools and community centers will be needed.
- Overall, improving existing parks was the number one top priority of all parks, recreation, and open space improvements needed in Eugene today, according to the community survey. The Park Amenity Evaluation, Natural Area Evaluation, and the Facility Condition Report provide information about specific renovation improvements needed.
- The proposed level of service for amenities and facilities presented in this report are intended to serve as a guide to assess current and future needs. They are not intended to be adopted as a formal standard.



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Bethel-Danebo	
Active Bethel Citizens	Entire
Industrial Corridor Community Organization	Partial (RR/SC)
Trainsong Neighbors	Entire
West Eugene Community Organization	Partial (CC, WC)
City Central	
Downtown Neighborhood Association	Entire
Fairmount Neighbors	Partial (SE)
Jefferson Westside Neighbors	Entire
U of O Campus	Entire
West Eugene Community Organization	Partial (BD, WC)
West University Neighbors	Partial (SE)
Whiteaker Community Council	Entire
River Road/Santa Clara	
Industrial Corridor Community Organization	Partial (BD)
River Road Community Organization	Entire
Santa Clara Community Organization	Entire
South Eugene	
Amazon Neighbors	Entire
Crest Drive Citizens Association	Partial (SE)
Fairmount Neighbors	Partial (CC)
Friendly Area Neighbors	Entire
Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Association	Entire
South University Neighborhood	Entire
West University Neighbors	Partial (CC)
Willakenzie	
Cal Young Neighborhood	Entire
Harlow Neighbors	Entire
Willow Creek	
Churchill Area Neighbors	Entire
Crest Drive Citizens Association	Partial (SE)
Far West Neighborhood	Entire
West Eugene Community Organization	Partial (BD, CC)

Table 1: Neighborhood Associations in Planning Sub-areas

II. ASSESSMENT OF NEED FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

This section discusses the community's need for the seven classifications within the City's parks and open space system. For each park type, public involvement findings and important trends are noted. Potential partners are identified where applicable. Relevant standards are discussed and updated. Comprehensive Plan standards are proposed. Based on these proposed standards, current and future need is calculated for each park type. The distribution of each park classification by planning area and the role of other providers in the provision of parks are described.

A. City Parks and Natural Areas

Parks and natural areas are heavily used. According to the Community Survey, 92.5% of respondents have visited a park or natural area owned or managed by the City of Eugene during the last year.

The City of Eugene owns and manages the following types of parks and natural areas:

- Neighborhood parks
- Community parks
- Natural area parks
- Urban plazas
- Metropolitan parks
- Linear parks
- Special use facilities

Map 2 shows the seven park classifications. It includes a few parks and open space sites located within the study area that are not owned, nor managed by the City of Eugene. For example, Emerald Park, which is located within the River Road/Santa Clara planning sub-area, is owned and managed by the River Road Parks District. Some natural areas, such the Willow Creek Natural Area, are owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy.

For definitions of each park type in the classification system, see Appendix A. A complete inventory of the City's parks and open space system by park type is included in Appendix C.

Table 2 describes proposed standards and anticipated need for parks and natural areas in Eugene. As a guideline to establish new standards for Eugene, the current level of service is compared to standards of other cities, Oregon average standards, the 1989 Plan, and historic NRPA standards. Comparable Cities/Districts include Boise, Boulder, Corvallis, Portland, Salem, Spokane, Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District, and Willamalane Parks & Recreation District. Oregon average standards drew from research of 45 communities in Oregon. For more than 30 years, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has recommended standards for parks, recreation, and open space that have been modified and adapted by agencies across the country. Standards are minimum – not maximum – goals for service, generally expressed as a ratio of facilities per 1000 population. NRPA now recommends that agencies develop customized standards for their community (NRPA 1995). Therefore, the NRPA standards are identified as historic standards. Following this analysis, community demand for each of the various park and open space types is considered in developing the new standards, which are expressed in acres per 1000 people. A standards analysis is provided for each of the seven park types.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are small parks located within biking and walking distance of users. They provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents, enhance neighborhood identity, and preserve neighborhood open space.



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Insert **Table 2**



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Map 3 shows the service areas of parks and school playgrounds that meet neighborhood need. Service area for purposes of this map is based on the current planning target of providing a park or school playground within a half-mile safe walking distance. Major streets with higher volume or higher speed traffic are considered barriers to a safe walk for purposes of this analysis. This map also displays residential areas that are not within a safe walking distance of a park or a school playground. Residential areas are those areas designated in the Eugene/Springfield Metropolitan Plan as high, medium, or low density residential. Some residential areas had been provided service by schools and no longer are because the schools are or will be closed. These areas are also shown on the map.

The City of Eugene provides 50 neighborhood parks, ranging from 0.37 to 20.0 acres in size. Examples of neighborhood parks include Irwin, Charnel Mulligan, Bramblewood, Laurel Hill, Oakmont, and Skyview. Neighborhood parks account for 208.63 total acres. Several neighborhood park amenities are in poor to fair shape (Appendix E). According to the park amenity evaluation, sports fields, planting/shrubs, signage, and lighting were rated in less than fair condition (<2 in the evaluation). Although off-street parking is not typically provided in neighborhood parks, existing parking lots were also in poor condition.

Twenty-two (22) neighborhood parks in Eugene contain significant natural areas, ranging in size from 0.1 to 18.0 acres (Appendix F). Approximately 35% of neighborhood park acreage is managed for natural resource values. Their resource values range widely (from 4 to 20). Some of the sites with a greater resource value contain open waterways or wetlands. On average, neighborhood parks have a resource value of 8.8. This score is the lowest of all of the park classifications. Significant issues affecting the resource value of neighborhood parks include the small size of these areas and lack of continuity with the other natural areas.

The Willakenzie planning sub-area has the highest number of unserved areas at eleven. The City Center planning area has the fewest number with one area. Several neighborhood park sites in the River Road/Santa Clara sub-area have been acquired but are not yet developed.

Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Neighborhood parks are the most highly used recreation facilities for youth and the general population. According to the Community Survey, respondents averaged 6.74 visits per capita annually. In the Youth Questionnaire, respondents averaged 6.03 visits annually.
- According to the Community Survey, youths aged 10 to 14 and adults aged 35-44 were most likely of all age groups to frequent neighborhood parks.
- Neighborhood parks *provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors and connect people together, building stronger families and neighborhoods*. These are two of the top three benefits of parks, recreation, and open space, according to respondents from the Community Survey, the Eugene Celebration, and the Speakers Bureau.
- Creating more neighborhood parks is a priority park improvement, according to more than 20% of the respondents from the Community Survey, Eugene Celebration, and Speakers Bureau.
- *Develop additional smaller, close-to-home neighborhood parks* ranked second for park improvements in the Community Survey, Eugene Celebration Report, and the Youth Questionnaire. It was the number one choice for respondents aged 10 to 14 and 35 to 44, according to the Community Survey.
- Overall, *improve existing parks* was the number one top priority of all parks, recreation, and open space improvements most needed in Eugene today, according to the Community Survey.



- The Recreation and Social Service Provider Focus Group also identified *improving neighborhood parks* as a priority in Eugene.
- Nearly one-third of respondents in the Youth Questionnaire indicated they would be most comfortable attending recreation activities at school. School properties frequently serve as neighborhood parks.
- The age groups most likely to use school facilities for recreation are youths aged 10-14, youths aged 15-17, and adults aged 35-44.

Potential Partners

Property and facilities managed by Eugene School District 4J and Bethel School District 52 are distributed in neighborhoods throughout the City. These facilities are available for use on a limited basis and often function as focal points for neighborhood recreation. Recent school district moves to consolidate schools and dispose of surplus property indicate a strong need to coordinate the long range planning of parks and recreation facilities with schools.

Standards Analysis

The City currently provides 1.30 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 population (Table 2). Based on the service area map (Map 3), there are between 60 and 70 separate residential areas not within a half-mile safe walking distance of a playground. Some of these, however, represent small geographic areas and do not warrant the development of a neighborhood park facility. It is estimated that roughly 37 additional neighborhood parks are needed to serve the residential areas within the Urban Growth Boundary.

At an average size of 4 acres each, this would mean an additional 148 acres of land would be needed. If this number is added to the existing inventory (208.63 acres) and divided by the projected 2025 population (per 1,000 people), a proposed standard of 1.7 acres per 1,000 people can be derived.

Comparable standards for neighborhood parks range from 1.13 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 people (Table 2). Based on the proposed standard, 150 acres of additional land will be needed by the year 2025.

Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks that provide active and passive recreational opportunities for all City residents. Community parks can accommodate large group activities and typically have internal parking areas and sport fields. Community parks have a service area radius of 2 miles. Map 4 illustrates the distribution of community parks in Eugene, along with their service areas. Metropolitan parks are included on the map, since these park types provide opportunities similar to community parks.

The City provides 10 community parks, ranging from 8.36 to 90.0 acres in size. Examples of community parks include Amazon, Westmoreland, and Bethel Community Park. Three parks serving community park needs are located on School District property. These include Sheldon, Churchill, and Cal Young Sports Parks. Community Parks contribute 219.17 total acres of parks in Eugene. In general, community park amenities are in fair to good condition. According to the park amenity evaluation, only park signage rated in fair condition (Appendix E). Other park amenities rated from fair to good.

Six community parks contain significant natural areas, ranging from 0.4 to 35.0 acres in size (Appendix F). The average resource value for community parks is 9.2, with scores for individual sites ranging from 5 to 18 (overall range is from low of 4 to high of 22). Community parks have the second lowest average score for all park types. Park size and continuity are factors that affect the resource value of community parks.



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Insert Map 4 - **FRONT**



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In reviewing the analysis, it is evident that Eugene has tended to minimize the development of active recreation facilities, such as basketball and athletic fields, within neighborhood or metropolitan parks. These park types are identified as having between 35% and 67% of their areas managed for natural resource values. This has resulted in community parks providing a majority of the active recreation space in Eugene.

Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Community parks are the third most highly-used recreation facilities in Eugene, for youths and the general population. According to the Community Survey, respondents averaged 5.52 per capita visits annually. Youth averaged 4.47 visits annually, according to the Youth Questionnaire.
- The age groups most likely to use community parks frequently are adults aged 25-34, adults aged 35-44, and seniors (65+).
- Nearly one-third of respondents in the Youth Questionnaire indicated they would be most comfortable attending recreation activities at school. School district properties frequently border community parks.
- Overall, developing new community parks ranked as a low- to medium-priority project for the City of Eugene. More than 13.9% of respondents in the Community Survey, Speakers Bureau, and Youth Questionnaire chose *develop more large, multi-use community parks like Amazon Park* as a priority in park improvements. However, only 5.6% from the Eugene Celebration indicated that choice.
- Renovating existing parks is a high priority for parks in Eugene. *Upgrade/Complete existing parks* ranked number one in desired park improvements, according to the Community Survey (30.5%), the Speakers Bureau (28.3%), and the Youth Questionnaire (23.2%). In the Eugene Celebration Report, upgrading parks ranked third, with 19.2% choosing it as a priority.
- Overall, *improve existing parks* was the number one top priority of all parks, recreation, and open space improvements most needed in Eugene today.

Potential Partners

Property and facilities managed by Eugene School District 4J and Bethel School District 52 are distributed throughout the City. In some cases, school properties adjoin community parks, such as the Sheldon Sports Park, Bethel Community Park, and Ascot Park. School facilities are available for use on a limited basis and often function as focal points for recreation.

Partnerships could be created with the River Road Park and Recreation District, who maintains Emerald Park as a valuable site for community recreation.

Standards Analysis

Currently, the City provides 1.37 acres of community parks, per 1,000 people (Table 2).

Based on the service area map (Map 4), there is only one area within the Eugene Planning Area that is not being served by a community (or metropolitan) park. This area is located in the River Road/Santa Clara area. The current plan is to add one park in the Santa Clara area consisting of approximately 70 acres. Smaller acquisitions totaling 20-25 acres could be added to a few of the existing sites. All totaled, an additional 95 acres could be acquired. If this number is added to the existing inventory (219.17 acres) and divided by the projected 2025 population (per 1,000 population), a suggested level of service of 1.5 acres per 1,000 people can be derived.

Comparable standards for community parks range from 1.72 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 people (Table 2). The suggested level of service of 1.5 acres of community parks per 1,000 people is well below this range. Based on this suggested standard, 97.18 acres of additional land will be needed by the year 2025.



Natural Area Parks

Natural areas are managed for recreational use and natural resource values, such as wildlife habitat, water quality, and endangered species protection. They provide opportunities for nature-based recreation and education, such as wildlife viewing, hiking, jogging, bicycling, and nature photography.

The City of Eugene has 27 natural area parks, totaling 1,486.77 total acres. They range in size from 0.28 to 393.83 acres. Examples of natural area parks include Meadowlark Prairie, Spencer Butte, and Delta Ponds. In addition to natural area parks, the City protects almost 800 acres of significant natural resources within other park types, such as neighborhood parks, community parks, metropolitan parks, and linear parks.

While natural area parks need to be located based on available natural resources, all residents should have some level of access to natural area parks. South Eugene currently has the most acres of natural area parks. The Central and River Road/Santa Clara planning sub-areas have no natural area parks.

Not surprisingly, all 27 of Eugene's natural area parks have significant natural resources (Appendix F). Resource values tended to be greater for larger parks; however, some smaller parks, such as Willow Corner, also had a high score due to their special features. Total scores ranged from 5 to 22. On average, natural area parks had a resource value of 12.5. Natural areas scored lower than metropolitan parks (17.2) and linear parks (12.7). The number of smaller natural area parks sites may have contributed to this lower score.

Only five of the 13 park amenities evaluated by Parks and Open Space staff were applicable to natural area parks (Appendix E). Three of these – turf, trails, and signage – were in poor to fair condition.

Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- More than half (51.8%) of Community Survey respondents said there should be an equal distribution of natural areas and active parks in Eugene.
- According to the Community Survey, adults aged 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 were more likely than average to support more natural than active parks. At the Eugene Celebration, respondents slightly favored entirely natural parks over entirely active parks.
- Natural areas, however, are used less frequently than most other parks and community facilities. According to the Community Survey, respondents averaged 1.89 per capita visits annually. Youths averaged 3.58 visits annually. Participants in the Multi-Cultural Focus Group also indicated low usage of natural areas.
- Natural area parks support a number of recreation activities that are among the top 20 most popular in Eugene: walking (4), dog walking (8), wildlife watching (11), hiking (13), and bird watching (15).
- *River access for recreation, swimming, and boating* was ranked the second most needed outdoor recreation element in Eugene, according to respondents of the Community Survey and the Eugene Celebration. In the Youth Questionnaire, respondents ranked it first, indicating it is the top facility needed by youth in Eugene.
- Eugene Stakeholders observed that natural areas have value beyond the benefit of recreational use, such as providing significant habitat.
- The Natural Resource and Open Space Focus Group identified a range of benefits provided by natural area parks, including: Improved mental and physical health, habitat protection, community identity, education and recreation, and protection of natural and cultural history.



- Natural areas *provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors* and *protect the natural environment*. These are two of the top three benefits of parks, recreation, and open space, according to respondents from the Community Survey, the Eugene Celebration, and the Speakers Bureau.
- According to respondents at the Eugene Celebration, *purchase more natural areas* is the top priority for all park and open space improvements.
- In an open-ended question, *providing additional natural areas* was the most frequently mentioned individual improvement for all parks, open space, and recreation services, according to Speakers Bureau respondents.
- Eugene needs a strong open space acquisition program, according to participants in the Natural Resource and Open Space Focus Group. They wanted priority sites for acquisition to include Ridgeline sites, farmland, Metro Natural Resource Study sites, the confluence of the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, and rare and endangered habitat types.
- More than 65% of respondents believe Eugene's natural areas can be improved, according to the Community Survey and Speakers Bureau.
- The top three improvements for natural areas include *provide more passive recreation opportunities, such as trails and benches; improve habitat in existing natural areas and remove invasive species; and acquire more natural areas*, according to respondents in the Community Survey, Eugene Celebration, and Speakers Bureau.
- According to respondents in the Eugene Celebration, riparian areas, wetlands, and forested areas are the types of habitat that really need increased protection and acquisition.
- The Natural Resource and Open Space Focus Group identified the following natural resource priorities: Oak habitat, riparian areas, and remnant native prairies.
- The Maintenance Staff Focus Group specifically noted the need for increased public awareness regarding wetlands and natural areas and continued removal of invasive species from natural area parks.
- Eugene's natural open spaces could be improved by providing additional public information, revising planning and design policies to emphasize natural resource values, and utilizing maintenance practices aimed at enhancing habitat, improving water quality, and minimizing impacts, according to the Natural Resource and Open Space Focus Group.
- Development may limit land available for future parks and natural areas, a concern of key Stakeholders in Eugene.
- Stakeholders in Eugene recognized the need to expand parks and natural areas to keep up with population growth and to ensure that all residents have adequate access.
- Some natural areas in Eugene may be over-used or impacted by humans and animals, according to key Stakeholders. Consequently, the need to expand and protect natural areas is greater.

Potential Partners

Other providers and organizations with a stake in natural areas include agencies from the county, state, and federal government, including Lane Council of Governments, Lane County Parks, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. They also include environmental organizations, such as the McKenzie River Trust, The Trust for Public Land, and the Nature Conservancy.



Standards Analysis

The City currently provides 9.27 acres of natural area park per 1,000 people (Table 2). This level of service does not include the nearly 800 acres of natural area included in other park types, such as neighborhood, community, linear, and metropolitan parks. The need for natural area parks is often based on the availability of local environmentally sensitive lands such as significant habitat, hillsides and wetlands. According to the Metropolitan Natural Resource Study completed by LCOG in 2001, there are roughly 4000 acres of natural resource land in the Eugene area. Projects totaling several thousands of acres have been identified as priority improvements in the regional vision for parks and open space, *Rivers to Ridges* (LCOG, 2003). While it is difficult to ascertain the amount of land that could be included in this category, staff has identified a minimum of approximately 650 acres that could be added to complete significant Ridgeline Trail connections and protect significant waterways.

For purposes of deriving a recommended standard, we will assume an additional 650 acres will be preserved by the year 2025. If this number is added to the existing inventory (1,486.77 acres) and divided by the projected 2025 population, a proposed standard of 10 acres per 1,000 people can be derived. This standard will help the City create a system that balances active parks and natural areas since the combined proposed standard for active parks is 10 acres per 1000 people. This does not take into consideration the natural areas that will be preserved now and in the future by other park types. If current patterns of preserving natural areas within other park types continue, another 400 acres would be managed for natural resource values by the year 2025.

Comparable standards for natural area parks range from 6.81 to 14.89 acres per 1,000 population (Table 2). The City of Eugene's proposed standard of 10.0 acres of natural area park per 1,000 people is well within this range. Based on this proposed standard, 622 acres of additional land will be needed by the year 2025.

Other Parkland

In addition to neighborhood parks, community parks, and natural area parks, four other types of parkland are located within the Eugene planning area. These include the following:

- Urban Plazas
- Metropolitan Parks
- Linear Parks
- Special Use Facilities

The acquisition of these park types is based on land availability or, in the case of special facilities, is a very specific siting need. To allow the City maximum flexibility in responding to community needs and to take advantage of opportunities that cannot be foreseen today, a standard of 6.8 acres per 1000 people is proposed for all other parkland. Additional acquisitions in the other parkland category will likely include some natural areas, as is the case with existing metropolitan and linear parks.

Urban Plazas

Urban plazas provide social gathering space within higher density urban areas. They may include performance space, public art or fountains, and serve both residential and commercial uses. The City of Eugene currently has one urban plaza, measuring 1.1 acres in size, the Park Blocks. Park Block signage was rated in poor condition (Appendix E). All other plaza amenities were in fair or good condition. The Park Blocks contain no significant natural resources, although significant native plantings have been added in recent years as an environmental education effort.



Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Urban plazas can *provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors*, which is the most important benefit of parks, recreation services, and open space, according to the respondents of the Community Survey, the Eugene Celebration, and the Speakers Bureau Report.
- The Business Community Focus Group identified Eugene's Park Blocks as an example of community assets that provide economic benefit to Eugene's residents, employers and business owners. The Park Blocks provide the setting for the Saturday Market, Lane County Farmer's Market, and the Eugene Celebration.

Potential Partners

Private developers may be potential partners in developing urban plazas. Building complexes and urban housing developments create opportunities for rooftop gardens, interior plazas or courtyards, and other open space areas. Although in private ownership, these features are important to the livability of high-density areas, such as nodal development.

Standards Analysis

The City currently provides 0.01 acres of urban plaza space per 1,000 people (Table 2).

Urban plazas provide social and passive recreational opportunities in urban settings, such as downtown commercial districts and neighborhood commercial nodal developments. These types of facilities could be incorporated into future development and/or redevelopment projects throughout the city.

The need for urban plazas is reflected in the proposed combined standard of 6.8 acres per 1,000 people for other parkland. To calculate the overall combined standard, it was estimated that a minimum of one additional urban plaza could be developed in each of the six planning sub-areas. At an average size of 0.5 acres, this will result in a need for approximately three additional acres.

Comparable standards for urban plazas do not exist. Other agencies may include urban plazas in the special use facilities category, which is discussed on the following pages.

Metropolitan Parks

Metropolitan parks are larger parks that provide features and facilities that attract users from the entire Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area or preserve unique cultural and natural areas. Metropolitan parks can accommodate large group activities.

The City of Eugene has six metropolitan parks, totaling 654.45 acres. They include Alton Baker, Hendricks, Maurie Jacobs, Skinner Butte, Washington/Jefferson, and Wayne Morse Ranch. They range in size from 21 to 402.20 acres. Metropolitan park amenities are generally in poor to fair condition (Appendix E). According to the park amenity evaluation, six amenities were reported to be in less than fair condition (<2 on the evaluation): children's play areas, sport fields, trails, planting/shrubs, park signage, and lighting.

Eugene's metropolitan parks are important for active use and for their natural resource value. Active uses are primarily for large events and gatherings, and some sports activities, although only two sites have sport fields. Approximately 67% of the current inventory of metropolitan parks is managed for natural resource values. Five metropolitan parks contain significant natural resources, with natural areas ranging from 15.0 to 292.0 acres (Appendix F). The larger park size, their habitat diversity, and the presence of rare plants, animals, and significant wetlands and waterways are factors that contribute to their higher resource value. According to the natural area evaluation, the average score for metropolitan parks is 17.2 (overall range is from low of 4 to high of 22). This is the highest score for any park type.



Metropolitan Parks serve all residents; however, access to them may vary through the city. Three planning sub-areas, Bethel/Danebo, Willow Creek, and River Road/Santa Clara are poorly served by access to Metropolitan Parks.

Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- According to the Community Survey and the Youth Questionnaire, metropolitan parks are the fourth most highly used recreation facility, averaging 5.46 per capita visits annually. Youth visits averaged 4.06 visits annually, according to the Youth Questionnaire.
- The age groups most likely to use metropolitan parks frequently are adults aged 18-24 and 55-64.

Potential Partners

Other providers of area metropolitan parks include Willamalane Park and Recreation District and Lane County.

Standards Analysis

The City currently provides 4.08 acres of metropolitan parks per 1,000 people (Table 2). In the absence of a community and/or neighborhood park, metropolitan parks can fulfill this function if appropriately developed. These types of parks also contribute to the inventory of natural areas with 436.28 acres of the total 654.45 acres being maintained in its natural state.

The need for metropolitan parks is reflected in the proposed combined standard of 6.8 acres per 1,000 people. Due to the size and the type of development provided by metropolitan parks, the need for metropolitan parks is usually opportunity-based. Considering the City already has a considerable amount of land allocated in this category, it is assumed the current acreage is sufficient to meet the present day and future needs of the Eugene residents.

Comparable standards for metropolitan parks do not exist. Very few communities use this park classification type, and some communities use a classification such as “large urban” or “regional” to describe metropolitan parks.

Linear Parks

Linear parks provide connectivity between open space areas and provide public access to trail-oriented activities, which may include walking, running, biking, or skating. They may also provide neighborhood recreation facilities where adequate space is available.

The City has 13 linear parks, totaling 201.13 acres. Typically they are either part of the Amazon Creek system or the Willamette River Greenway. They range from 3.9 to 54.0 acres in size. The park amenity evaluation found seven amenities (of 13 possible) applicable to linear parks: turf, parking, park structures, trails, signage, site furnishings, and lighting (Appendix E). All seven were in poor to fair condition, with no amenities in any linear park rated in good condition.

Linear parks report a high average resource value in comparison to other park types (Appendix F). Their average total score of 12.7 is second only to metropolitan parks (overall range is from low of 4 to high of 22). According to the natural area evaluation, all 13 linear parks contain significant resource value, with natural acreage ranging from 2.0 to 54.0 acres. Many of these sites contain or are adjacent to wetlands and open waterways.

Public Involvement Findings/Trends

- Multi-purpose trails are the second most highly used park and community facility, averaging 5.57 per capita visits annually, according to the Community Survey.
- According to the Youth Questionnaire, youth use multi-purpose trails less frequently. Trails ranked fifth out of 8 facilities, averaging 4.05 visits annually.



- According to Community Survey respondents, the top outdoor recreation facilities needed in Eugene today are *multi-purpose trails connecting community facilities for biking, walking, etc.*
- In an open-ended question, *improving trails* was the second most frequently mentioned individual improvement for all parks, open space, and recreation services, according to Speakers Bureau respondents.
- The Maintenance Staff Focus Group specifically noted the need for improved trails, adequate trail drainage, better trailhead signage, and increased public information and education regarding trails and trail usage.
- Linear parks support a number of recreation activities that are among the top 20 most popular in Eugene: Walking (4), dog walking (8), bicycling for pleasure (9), jogging/running (12), hiking (13), and bicycling for commute (20).

Potential Partners

Agencies that own rights-of-way, such as Lane County, Oregon Department of Transportation, Bonneville Power Administration, Eugene Water and Electric Board, and the railroads may be potential partners for linear park development. Private property owners may consider easements to allow connectivity, and the City of Eugene's bicycle program is also an important partner.

Standards Analysis

The City currently provides 1.25 acres of linear park per 1,000 people (Table 2). This type of park also contributes to the inventory of natural areas with 190.73 acres of the total 201.13 maintained in its natural state. In some, instances, this type of park can also serve the neighborhood park need, if appropriately developed.

The need for linear parks is reflected in the combined standard of 6.8 acres per 1,000 people. Linear park needs are usually based on the presence of linear features, such as utility corridors, waterways, etc. These park types can accommodate a wide range of functions including habitat preservation, flood control and trail development. The City already maintains a significant amount of land in this category. However, it seems likely that the existing inventory could be doubled given the demand for trails and the goal of creating an interconnected system of parks.

For the linear park category, it is assumed that an additional 200 acres will be secured by the year 2025 to contribute to the combined park standard. Additional lands could be preserved along waterways and other similar linear features.

Comparable standards for linear parks range from 0.14 to 1.0 acre per 1,000 people. Eugene's higher standard is based on the goal of connectivity, and the availability of linear resources, such as the Amazon Creek and the Willamette River.

Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities have unique features, historical significance, and/or specialized functions. Community centers, senior centers, pools, golf courses, botanical gardens, amphitheaters, historic sites, composting facilities, and City-owned facilities on school property are classified as special use facilities.

The City has 23 special use facilities, totaling 130.71 acres. Many of these facilities are located within other park types or on school district property; therefore, their acreage is not included in this classification for freestanding facilities. Special use facilities range in size from 0.75 to 92.0 acres. They tend to be in good condition (Appendix E). When evaluated, only lighting and signage appeared to be in less than fair condition (<2). However, seven more facilities had an average score of 2.0. Slight deterioration would reduce their overall rating to "poor."



Three sites for special use facilities contain significant natural resources that were not already noted: Prefontaine Memorial Park, Bloomberg, and Laurelwood Golf Course (Appendix F). On average, these special use facilities had a resource value of 10.7, with scores ranging from 7 to 13 (overall range is from low of 4 to high of 22).

Public Involvement Findings/Trends

Section III of this report contains public involvement findings and trends related to specific recreation amenities and facilities, such as gardens, golf courses, performance spaces, pools, and community/senior centers. The following findings relate to a multi-use sports complex, which combines a variety of recreation amenities and facilities in one location. Such a facility would be classified as a special use facility.

- A sports complex is the most needed sports facility in Eugene, according to 24.7% of the respondents to the Community Survey.
- A multi-use sports complex could combine many of the recreation activities among the top 30 for youths in Eugene: basketball (5), exercising/aerobics (6), jogging/running (7), outdoor swimming (8), indoor swimming (12), soccer (14), football (15), skateboarding (23), tennis (28), and baseball (30).
- Local sport organizations indicated that participation in organized sports is growing, and there is a need for more athletic facilities in Eugene to accommodate the demand.
- Competitive and recreational sports are the types of recreation activities most needed by middle school and high school youth in Eugene, according to responses to the Youth Questionnaire. Middle school and high school youth are the two groups most in need of better recreation services, as noted in the Community Survey, Eugene Celebration, and Speakers Bureau Report.
- The top four sport facilities most needed by youth include swimming pools, a sports complex, outdoor basketball courts, and turf fields. Demand has also been noted for additional all-weather facilities for basketball and skateboarding.
- Local recreation providers noted that adults are participating in active recreation longer in the Eugene area. However, more sport opportunities are available for youths than for adults, according to the results of the Organized Sports Questionnaire.
- The demand for athletic facilities by both youths and adults is high. There is an increase in youth organizations using fields and gyms during "adult time" hours.
- According to the Community Survey, adults 18-24 were less likely than the overall community to participate in City-sponsored recreation activities. This age group is likely to be attracted by affordable, competitive or recreational sports, requiring available athletic fields and facilities.
- The need for drop-in recreational and competitive sports was mentioned as a need in several public involvement efforts.
- Building a City-owned sports complex to provide more sport opportunities was a priority service improvement identified at the LRCS All-staff Workshop.
- Organized Sport providers indicated a need for the following: Improvements to existing fields, the development of a sports field complex, an increase in fields for soccer, rugby, football, disc golf, baseball, and softball, and the construction of a gymnasium/field house.
- According to the Business Community Focus Group, a recreational niche market for Eugene should be sought, including building a destination sports facility, such as a multi-sports complex and tournament locations, to draw a regional or national audience.
- According to Community Survey results, participation in traditional team sports (soccer, basketball, football, softball, baseball) is lower in Eugene than the Northwest Average.



Basketball was the only team sport to appear on the list of top 20 preferred activities for Eugene, and respondents wanted to participate more in basketball than they currently do. Survey results indicate that participation in golf, tennis, and both indoor and outdoor volleyball are higher than the Northwest Average.

- National trends exhibit growth in many field athletics and sports since 2001: Touch football (8.6%), baseball (5.1%), basketball (3%), soccer (4.7%), and softball (3.2%) (National Sporting Goods Association, 2003).
- The SCORP identifies a statewide shortage in existing team sport facilities and a high demand for them. Oregon has declared a statewide objective to increase the number of baseball, softball, football, and soccer fields where needed (OPRD, 2003).
- Local trends exhibit growth in many field athletics and sports. Participation rates in the Eugene area from 1987-2002 have increased for the following: Football/Rugby (152.3%), baseball (130.6%), soccer (78.3%), outdoor basketball (31.2%), and softball (15.6%) (OPRD, 2003).
- Due to the revenue generated, athletics is one of the most cost effective programs offered by the City. Availability of fields and gymnasiums may limit the growth of these activities.

Potential Partners

The potential for partnerships involving special facilities varies according to the type of facility. Regional facility partners may include other providers, such as River Road Park and Recreation District and Willamalane Park and Recreation District. Private developers and sport providers, such as KidSports, may partner on sport facilities and complexes. Non-profit organizations may partner on projects related to historical and environmental issues. For example, the Shelton-McMurfhey-Johnson House is operated by a friends group.

Standards Analysis

The City currently provides 0.81 acres of special use area per 1,000 population (Table 2).

The need for special use areas is reflected in the combined standard of 6.8 acres per 1,000 population. The actual need is typically based on the number of facilities located independently and not included in other types of park areas. To accommodate these types of facilities it is estimated that a minimum of 80 acres is needed. This would provide adequate acreage for a sports park(s), additional aquatic facilities, and additional indoor recreation space.

Comparable standards for special use facilities range from 0.14 to 1.0 acre per 1,000 people.

B. General Park Coverage

Map 5 shows park coverage, including all park types, with a uniform half-mile service area buffer. Underserved areas within each of the six planning sub-areas are shown. These areas should be a high priority for future park acquisition, since they are currently not served by parks of any type.

C. Analysis by Planning Sub-area

A complete inventory of City parks and natural areas by planning sub-area is included in Appendix D. This section presents sub-area findings for parks and open space. Sub-area findings for recreation amenities and facilities are included in Section III.

Bethel-Danebo

- Park acreage in this sub-area is fairly well matched to the current population.
- The Comprehensive Plan will need to address growth predicted for this area.
- The Bethel-Danebo sub-area has no metropolitan parks.
- Echo Hollow Pool is the only special use facility in this sub-area.



- The area is well served by natural area parks and linear parks, in terms of acreage available. Access needs to be addressed and improved.
- The West Eugene Wetlands is a significant component of this planning sub-area.

City Central

- There are few neighborhood, community, and natural area parks in this sub-area. Access to these types of facilities in other planning sub-areas needs to be addressed.
- The City Central sub-area is well served by metropolitan parks and special use facilities.
- Density needs to be addressed in this sub-area, possibly with additional urban plazas.
- Downtown Eugene and the University of Oregon significantly impact park and open space character in this planning sub-area.

River Road/Santa Clara

- Currently, this area is poorly served by all park types, except for linear parks via the Willamette River Greenway system.
- The acreage for neighborhood parks is adequate, but very little of this acreage has been developed with recreation amenities.
- The inventory data does not recognize the benefits of Emerald Park and other facilities managed by the River Road Park and Recreation District.
- Plans are currently underway to acquire a community park to serve the Santa Clara area.
- There is extremely limited access to natural areas.

South Eugene

- This sub-area has no real area of deficiency.
- There are more than adequate number of parks, especially natural areas parks and special use facilities.
- The South Eugene planning sub-area has the highest amount of total parkland, total developed acreage, and natural area acreage.
- The ridgeline system is a significant park resource in this planning sub-area. Access to this resource should continue to be improved.

Willakenzie

- This sub-area has significant deficiencies in all areas except for community and metropolitan parks.
- There are very few natural area parks, linear parks, and special use facilities.
- Although the number of neighborhood parks is adequate, several of the sites are small and therefore total acreage is low.
- The total acreage of parks and open space is fairly well matched to the current population.
- Alton Baker Park, Willamette East Bank, and Delta Ponds have significant impact on park character in this planning sub-area.



Insert map 5 – **FRONT**



Insert map 5 - **BACK**



Willow Creek

- There are no metropolitan parks and special use facilities in this sub-area.
- Willow Creek has adequate acreage and sites in natural area parks and linear parks (sites in the West Eugene Wetlands). Access to these sites, as well as additional recreation and interpretive amenities, should be important improvements.
- There is adequate acreage for neighborhood parks; however, access is limited and development is needed to provide additional recreation amenities.
- Community park service is provided by the Churchill Sports Park.
- Only one percent of the total acreage has been developed with recreation features.
- West Eugene Wetlands, recently acquired Ridgeline properties, and Amazon Creek are all significant components of this planning sub-area.

D. Other Providers

In addition to City parks and natural areas, area residents have access to recreation facilities owned, managed, or maintained by others. This section describes these other providers and their involvement in providing recreation opportunities in the Eugene area.

Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB)

EWEB owns reservoir properties and linear right-of-ways that provide some of the functions of natural area and linear parks. They also own the riverfront plaza near their office by the Willamette River.

Federal Agencies

- The **Army Corps of Engineers** owns property around Fern Ridge Reservoir and within the West Eugene Wetlands.
- The **Bureau of Land Management** is also involved in acquiring, managing, and maintaining the West Eugene Wetlands.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife** provides management policies and some oversight for Fern Ridge Reservoir and surrounding wetlands.

State Agencies

- The **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)**, although not a property owner, is a partner in local and regional wildlife management, notably in the West Eugene Wetlands.
- The **Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)** owns some street right-of-ways that could function as linear parks. They also provide wetland mitigation sites, either near the original area of roadway construction or in alternative sites. Some of these are located in the West Eugene Wetlands.

Local Agencies/Districts

- The **Lane County Parks Division** manages and maintains 59 recreation sites consisting of approximately 4,400 acres of property throughout Lane County. These sites offer reservoir and lake access, river access, ocean beach access, swimming areas, boating and moorage sites, and picnicking, recreational and camping areas.
- The **Lane Events Center** provides several recreation facilities at the fairgrounds, including the Convention Center, the Ice Center, and the Sports Program, which includes four NBA-style basketball courts.



- **River Road Park and Recreation District** manages nine acres of parks and facilities located south of Beltline Road within the River Road/Santa Clara sub-area. These facilities include Emerald Park, a pool, fitness center, community center, gymnastic facility, and rental property (Annex).
- **Willamalane Park and Recreation District** manages approximately 680 acres of land in 31 parks and open spaces and two undeveloped properties, and it provides a wide range of recreational facilities and services. Parks and facilities, such as Dorris Ranch, the Lively Park Swim Center, and various riverfront parks, attract residents from the Eugene area. Similarly, Springfield residents also frequent parks and facilities in Eugene.

Schools

- **School District 4J** operates 18 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, and 4 high schools within the Eugene planning area. School properties often serve as focal points for neighborhood recreation, functioning as neighborhood parks and/or community parks. The City and the School Districts have a long history of coordinating facilities and programs. With the City's 1998 bond measure, nearly \$5 million was invested in parks and recreation improvements on 4J and Bethel School District Properties. Recent school closures and bond-funded construction projects have either permanently or temporarily impacted these sites. Recent school closures/disposals include Whiteaker, Willakenzie, Westmoreland, Bailey Hill, Santa Clara, Willard, Dunn, and Laurel Hill schools. Four elementary schools have been consolidated into the new Northside and Southside schools, currently under construction.
- **Bethel School District 52** operates 7 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 2 high school within the Eugene planning area. School properties often serve as focal points for neighborhood recreation, functioning as neighborhood parks and/or community parks. The City has also utilized bond measure funding to upgrade existing athletic fields on school properties.
- The **University of Oregon's** 280-acre, park-like campus provides a variety of recreation amenities and facilities primarily for U of O students, faculty, and staff. There are more than 42 acres of buildings and fields devoted to athletics at the U of O, including the 128,000 square-foot Student Recreation and Fitness Center, with indoor multi-purpose courts, an indoor track, expanded weight training and fitness facilities, a rock-climbing wall, and strength and fitness areas. Other facilities include two swimming pools, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, volleyball courts, badminton courts, and outdoor tennis courts, a Recreation Center, a Craft Center, and more.
- **Lane Community College** provides a 301-acre main campus just south of Eugene, home to a variety of recreation programs and facilities, including an 800 square-foot fitness education center.

Others

- A variety of **non-profit organizations** partner with Eugene in providing parks and recreation opportunities. Some, like KidSports, may be interested in collaborating on facility development or maintenance. Others, like the McKenzie River Trust and Nature Conservancy, accept donations of ecologically sensitive properties for protection as nature sanctuaries. Nature Conservancy holdings include, for example, the new, 30-acre Coburg Ridge Preserve and the 398-acre Willow Creek Natural Area.
- **Private developers** sometimes create developments that incorporate parks, playgrounds, trails, or urban plazas.
- Eugene has 11 **health clubs, fitness centers, gymnasiums, or athletic clubs**, which provide a variety of recreation opportunities, including swimming, tennis, rock climbing, weight training, and fitness.



- Eight **cemeteries** provide green spaces throughout Eugene.
- There are four private **golf courses** in the Eugene-Springfield area, which provide open space and recreation opportunities, including Oakway, Eugene Country Club, River Ridge, and Fiddler's Green.
- Other providers in Eugene include **health spas, bowling alleys, and dance studios.**

